

## CLAIMS

1           1. A method of accessing electronic documents,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3           storing, in a computer system, link information  
4 regarding one or more document links embedded in an  
5 electronic document;  
6           selecting the electronic document for retrieval by  
7 the computer system;  
8           in response to said selecting step, displaying the  
9 link information on a display screen of the computer  
10 system, and issuing a request for the electronic document  
11 to a network connected to the computer system; and  
12           in response to said issuing step, downloading the  
13 electronic document.

1           2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step  
2 of selecting a link contained within the displayed link  
3 information, prior to said downloading step.

1           3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said storing step  
2 stores at least one universal resource locator address  
3 associated with one of the document links embedded in the  
4 electronic document.

1           4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said storing step  
2 stores at least one java applet identifier associated  
3 with one of the document links embedded in the electronic  
4 document.

1           5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step  
2 of updating the link information after said downloading  
3 step.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said storing step stores at least one link label associated with one of the document links embedded in the electronic document.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said storing step stores at least one document layout location associated with one of the document links embedded in the electronic document.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said displaying step positions the one document link at the document layout location.

1           9. A computer system comprising:  
2           means for processing program instructions;  
3           a display screen connected to said processing means;  
4           means for interconnecting said processing means to a  
5           network;  
6           means for storing link information regarding one or  
7           more document links embedded in an electronic document,  
8           said electronic document being remotely located on the  
9           network; and  
10          means for displaying the link information on said  
11          display screen in response to selection of the electronic  
12          document for retrieval, prior to downloading of the  
13          electronic document from the network.

1           10. The computer system of Claim 9 further  
2           comprising means for issuing a request to download the  
3           electronic document from the network, in response to  
4           selection of the electronic document for retrieval.

1           11. The computer system of Claim 10 further  
2           comprising means for selecting a link contained within  
3           the displayed link information, prior to downloading the  
4           electronic document.

1           12. The computer system of Claim 10 further  
2           comprising means for updating the link information after  
3           downloading the electronic document.

1           13. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein said  
2           storing means stores at least one universal resource  
3           locator address associated with one of the document links  
4           embedded in the electronic document.

1           14. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein said

storing means stores at least one java applet identifier associated with one of the document links embedded in the electronic document.

15. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein said storing means stores at least one link label associated with one of the document links embedded in the electronic document.

16. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein said storing step stores at least one document layout location associated with one of the document links embedded in the electronic document.

17. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein said displaying means positions the one document link at the document layout location.

1 18. A computer program product comprising:  
2 a storage medium adapted to be read by a computer;  
3 and

4 program means stored on said storage medium for  
5 storing link information regarding one or more document  
6 links embedded in an electronic document which is located  
7 remote from the computer, and for displaying the link  
8 information on a display screen of the computer in  
9 response to selection of the electronic document for  
10 retrieval, prior to downloading of the electronic  
11 document to the computer.

1 19. The computer program product of Claim 18 wherein  
2 said program means further allow selection of a link  
3 contained within the displayed link information, prior to  
4 downloading the electronic document.

1 20. The computer program product of Claim 18 wherein  
2 said program means further provide for updating the link  
3 information after downloading the electronic document.

1 21. The computer program product of Claim 18 wherein  
2 said program means, in storing the link information,  
3 stores at least one universal resource locator address  
4 associated with one of the document links embedded in the  
5 electronic document.

1 22. The computer program product of Claim 18 wherein  
2 said program means, in storing the link information,  
3 stores at least one java applet identifier associated  
4 with one of the document links embedded in the electronic  
5 document.

1 23. The computer program product of Claim 18 wherein

2        said program means, in storing the link information,  
3        stores at least one link label associated with one of the  
4        document links embedded in the electronic document.

1           24. The computer program product of Claim 18 wherein  
2       said program means, in storing the link information,  
3       stores at least one document layout location associated  
4       with one of the document links embedded in the electronic  
5       document.

1           25. The computer program product of Claim 24 wherein  
2       said program means, in displaying the link information,  
3       positions the one document link at the document layout  
4       location.